

From: Deniz Franck
To: Microsoft ATR
Date: 12/10/01 10:37am
Subject: Say no to microsoft- let them pay for the hardware!!!

Dear Sir/Madam:

I am not one to speak up publicly, but this is the time to be heard. I have been a software professional working in this business for over 13 years (here are my qualifications:

http://www.geeksources.com/deniz_franck). I can say that I am not a pro-Microsoft, however, I do have an appreciation for their business savvy. Their technical savvy leaves a lot to be desired, but that is not what is important in the business world, as we all know, from numerous business studies and cases.

In any event, what Microsoft is proposing is a brilliant business maneuver. In no means will it help to settle the case, in fact, it will assist them with pushing Apple out of the education market. A wolf in sheeps clothing is the best description I can think of. Please, do not let them do this. My daughter is in elementary school, and most of the computers in her school are Apple computers. I am not one who programs regularly on a Apple computers, but the children enjoy working on them. The most interesting note is that my daughter is unaware of the differences between the Apple at school, and the mixture of MSWindows98 and Redhat Linux running at home. So here is my point: let Apple, Redhat, (or any linux/unix vendor), provide the operating systems and tools for free for the schools. This is advantageous in 2 respects:

1. Many more PC's can be provided to schools
2. If a child wants to pursue programming as a career, having exposure to many operating systems (especially unix/apple), can lead to them making more \$\$ in their careers. Exposure to just MS will lead to a future of only MS programmers, which would be unfortunate, and would pigeon-hole many of them to a smaller segment of jobs available.

Let Microsoft provide the funds for the hardware, but not the software. This is the one area in which they have attempted to stay out of, in terms of competition. Since the lawsuit is directly associated with their ill practices in competition, let them "sit this one out". Make them pay for the hardware, not the software, and let the rest of the industry have the chance to donate the software for free. I am willing to bet there will be a stampede of those willing to help. True justice will have been served.

Deniz Franck